problem and suggest remedial measures. Committee report has been submitted alongwith its recommendation in July, 2002. A copy of the report of the committee constituted by the Government of India to examine the issues concerning availability of spurious drugs in the market and measures recommended there of have been sent to all the State Drug Controllers for their implementation.

IV. Government of India has set up an expert Committee on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashalkar, DG, CSIR, Secretary to Government of India to look into the various issues related to Drugs Control Administration including the matter of effectively tackling the problem of spurious drugs.

V. Central Government have taken steps to augment the drugs testing facilities of State laboratories. Strengthening information system through computer networking is also under implementation.

Appointment of doctors of GDMO

4529. SHRI RAJU PARMAR :
SHRI LAJPAT RAI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a group of doctors of GDMO, a sub-cadre of CHS, were recruited on *ad hoc* basis/daily wages basis between 1978 and 1989 and these doctors qualified UPSC in year 1992 and 1994 ;

(b) whether some of them were given seniority from the date of initial appointment in violation of guidelines issued by Ministry of Personnel and Training *vide* circular No. 22011/4/91-Estt. (D), dated 01-07-1991 which prescribes counting of seniority from the date of clearance from the UPSC; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In accordance with various Court judgements and instructions of the Department of Personnel and Training, the services of some officers were regularized with effect from 22-10-1991 and 9-11-1992 (*i.e.* the dates of letters of Union Public Service Commission recommending their regularisation and as per instructions dated 1-7-1991 of Department of Personnel and Training). Those who could not qualify the tests conducted by UPSC or who did not undergo the tests were regularized, alongwith officers appointed on *ad hoc* basis during the strike of Jr./Sr. Residents in May-June 1989, with effect from 21-09-1994 (*i.e.* the date of UPSC

recommendation letter) on the basis of their service records. However, services of Dr. A.K. Bhardwaj who was initially appointed on monthly wage/contract basis have been regularized with effect from the date of his initial appointment. The matter regarding granting same benefits to other similarly placed officers has been taken up with the Department of Personnel and Training and Ministry of Law and Justice.

Bed patient ratio in hospitals

†4530. SHRI LAJPAT RAI :
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the bed patient ratio in the country is less than WHO's norms;

(b) if so, the ratio of beds and patients as per WHO's norms;

(c) what is this average in India at present; and

(d) by when the above ratio is proposed to be achieved by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The World Health Organization has informed that they have not set any norms for the bed-patient ratio. Besides, Bed patient ratio varies from case to case depending upon various factors like the type of disease, nature of specialization, type of patient-care required *viz.*, indoor/outdoor.

Import of unsafe food items

4531. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO :
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is vulnerable to unsafe food imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.